



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/954,446	09/14/2001	Robert M. Stacy	FMC-1031	6567

7590 09/22/2003

Pauley Petersen Kinne & Fejer  
Suite 365  
2800 West Higgins Road  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

EXAMINER

COCKS, JOSIAH C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3743

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/954,446

Applicant(s)

STACY ET AL.

Examiner

Josiah C. Cocks

Art Unit

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 6/25/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-10, 12-14 and 16-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-10, 12-14, and 16-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 3743

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Receipt of applicant's amendment filed 6/25/03 is acknowledged.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
4. Claims 2-10, 12-14, and 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lucke* (US # 5,211,106) in view of *Gebhardt et al.* (US # 6,044,833) and *Smith et al.* (US # 4,965,435).

Art Unit: 3743

*Lucke* discloses in Figures 1-5 a cooking oven comprising a cooking chamber that includes a chamber air recirculation loop (60), a conveyor (22) (see col. 5, lines 48-55), an upper manifold and lower manifold (see upper and lower areas of housing 20) and a plurality of louvers/baffles (44 and 46) connected with respect to the upper and lower manifolds for controlling the air flow between the manifolds (see col. 4, lines 57-59).

In regard to the limitations of the claims reciting a plurality of louvers arranged in both the upper and lower manifolds, to have selected multiple louvers in each of the upper and lower manifolds would have been simply a matter of duplicating a known part (i.e. the louvers 44 and 46) and is not regarded as patentably distinct (see MPEP § 2144.04 (VI)(B)).

*Lucke* does not disclose a heat exchanger and specifically a curved heat exchanger, an adjustment arm for the louvers, or a plurality of interchangeable modules that contain a portion for the cooking chamber, conveyor and plurality of louvers.

*Gebhardt et al.* teaches a baking oven in the same field of endeavor of the oven of *Lucke* wherein the oven of *Gebhardt et al.* includes a curved/serpentine heat exchanger (12) in fluid communication with the cooking chamber and with an air recirculation system.

*Smith et al.* teaches a baking oven in the same field of endeavor of the oven of *Lucke* wherein the oven of *Smith et al.* includes a manual adjustment arm (250a) extending from the oven for external operation of a gate/louver (250) inside the oven. *Smith et al.* also teaches upper and lower manifolds that are in the form of a plurality of separate and individual modules (70). In regard to claims 10 and 23, it would be inherent that as the modules of *Smith et al.* are separate these modules would be replaceable and as they are identical (see Fig. 1) these modules would be interchangeable.

Therefore, in regard to claims 2-10, 12-14, and 16-25, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cooking oven of *Lucke*; to incorporate the curved/serpentine heat exchanger of *Gebhardt et al.* as such a heat exchanger desirably heats recirculated air supplied to the cooking chamber and the serpentine shape is particularly effective in transferring heat (see *Gebhardt et al.*, col. 1, lines 33-50), and to incorporate the adjustment arm and individual modules of *Smith et al.* as the adjustment arm allows external manipulation of internal louvers to allow for control of air provided to air manifolds to adjust air velocity and temperature of upper and lower manifolds (see *Smith et al.*, col. 5, lines 16-25, and col. 8, lines 16-28) and the use of a plurality of individual modules desirably allows for control of air through each module separate from the other modules (see *Smith et al.*, col. 3, lines 7-28).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 6/25/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant contends that the cited references do not show an adjustment arm that opens a louver and correspondingly closes another louver. However, the examiner notes that the primary reference *Lucke* shows a plurality of louvers in the form of a first louver (44) controlling air flow to an upper manifold and a second louver (46) controlling air flow to a lower manifold. The *Smith et al.* reference is relied upon as a teaching reference as it shows a baking oven in the same field of endeavor as *Lucke*. In *Smith et al.*, a single louver (250) is manipulated by means of an actuation arm (250a) to control air-flow to upper and lower manifolds. The test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into

Art Unit: 3743

the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). In this case, the examiner considers that a person of ordinary skill in the art would consider that, in a baking oven containing at least one louver for an upper manifold and at least one louver for a lower manifold, an actuation arm, such as that of *Smith et al.*, would function to open one louver and correspondingly close another to adjust the air flows between upper and lower manifolds.

Applicant also argues that the cited references do not show a plurality of louvers. However, as noted in item 4 above, the examiner considers the addition of multiple louvers to be simply a matter of duplication of the louvers (44 and 46) disclosed by *Lucke* and is not regarded as patentably distinct.

### ***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 3743


however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Josiah Cocks whose telephone number is (703) 305-0450. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett, can be reached at (703) 308-0101. The fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 308-7764 for regular communications and (703) 305-3463 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

jcc  
September 19, 2003

  
JOSIAH COCKS  
PATENT EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3743